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Top Exile Fighter Quits U.S. For Base

By HAL HENDRIX
Miami News Editor

Cuban exile leader Manuel Artime, who was the top figure in the Bay of Pigs invasion force, said today he was leaving the United States to direct an anti-Castro guerrilla army from a headquarters some- where in Central America.

"Almost all eyes in the United States have been closed on us, so we are going to direct from where we can fight the Castro's Communist regime," Artime said.

"We are going to the United States to get the support we need to fight the Castro regime," Artime said.

"There is no doubt that the United States will support the fight of Castro, but we must be aware that we are not in the United States to fight the Castro regime."

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Against the Castro regime will be won "very soon."

"We are not talking about publicity attacks against Communist Cuba," Artime said.

"We are not planning to carry out only hit-and-run raids. Our program is designed to cause permanent injury to the economy of Communist Cuba."

Artime said his organization did not plan to harass shipping to Cuba.

But there have been reports circulating in Miami that Artime's MRR and possibly some other organizations were preparing to operate out of a Central American headquarters using a "mother ship" and several smaller boats for their "war action" against the Castro regime.

Although Artime did not disclose the location of his new headquarters, there are reports in the exile colony that Nicaragua and Costa Rica are the most likely sites.

Artime denied vigorously reports circulating here and in Washington that he is being supported and financed by Attorney General Robert Kennedy.

"I have no association with the attorney general," Artime asserted. "We have worked for four months in Latin America gathering support and funds. Now we are ready to launch our complete program."

Artime said some Latin governments, some wealthy Latin Americans, some wealthy Americans and some Latin political parties have agreed to provide financing and weapons for the MRR operations.

"It is apparent that the United States has some international commitments which prevent help for us," Artime commented.

"We are going to operate our organization in the U.S. and we are going to carry out our fight to beat the Castro regime. We are going to be in the U.S. for a long time and we are going to be in the U.S. for a long time."

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